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Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations

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I. Introduction

1. The General Assembly, in its resolution 54/81 of 6 December 1999, welcomed the report of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations (A/54/87), and decided that the Special Committee, in accordance with its mandate, should continue its efforts for a comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects. Following the recommendations made in the Special Committee's report, the General Assembly requested the Committee to submit a further report on its work to the Assembly at its fifty-fifth session; this would be considered in a resumed session of the Fourth Committee.

2. In the same resolution, the General Assembly reiterated that those Member States that became personnel contributors to United Nations peacekeeping operations in years to come or that participated in the future in the Special Committee for three consecutive years as observers should, upon a written request to the Chairman, become members at the following session of the Committee. The members and observers of the Special Committee at its 2000 session are listed in annex II to the present report.

3. At its 158th meeting, on 11 February 2000, the Special Committee elected the following representatives as the Committee's officers for a one-year term of office: Ambassador Arthur C. I. Mbanefo (Nigeria), Chairman; Ambassador Arnoldo M. Listre (Argentina), Ambassador Michel Duval (Canada), Mr. Motohide Yoshikawa (Japan) and Mr. Zbigniew Matuszewski (Poland), Vice-Chairmen; and Mr. Hossam Zaki (Egypt), Rapporteur.

4. The Special Committee also discussed its organization of work and decided to establish an open-ended working group, to be chaired by Canada, to consider the substance of the mandate entrusted to the Committee by the General Assembly in its resolution 54/81.

5. The general debate was followed by discussions in the informal open-ended working group, which met from 16 February to 10 March 2000.

II. General debate and working group

6. At its 158th to 161st meetings, on 11, 14 and 15 February 2000, the Special Committee held a general debate on the matters before it.

7. In his statement before the Committee at its 158th meeting, the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations reaffirmed that peacekeeping

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remained a key and indispensable instrument for the international community, and that the United Nations continued to play a central and irreplaceable role in that regard. Over the past year, he noted, the Organization had once more experienced an extraordinarily rapid expansion in the scale and nature of its operations, an expansion which unluckily coincided with a dramatic reduction of resources.

8. Since the last general debate in March 1999, the number of peacekeeping operations had grown from 14 to 17, with further engagement a real possibility. The number of troops had risen even more dramatically, from 15,000 troops, civilian police and military observers to 37,000 uniformed personnel in the field, with proposals for a further 5,500 currently under consideration. The Under-Secretary-General stated, however, that the most significant indicator of the increased role of peacekeeping was found not in those numbers, but in the expanded scope of activities undertaken, which include: establishing and running a civilian administration, maintaining law and order, and enabling the local population to assume those tasks in Kosovo and in East Timor; moving from an observer mission in support of regional efforts, to a major United Nations peacekeeping operation in Sierra Leone; and supporting peace and democracy within the Democratic Republic of the Congo and, by implication, throughout that region. The Under-Secretary-General added that unwavering political and financial support from Member States and strenuous efforts on the part of the Secretariat were essential if the high expectations underlying the creation of those missions were to be fulfilled.

9. The Under-Secretary-General noted also that three other peacekeeping operations were drawing towards a successful close, but stressed that the achievement of those missions should be viewed as a beginning, rather than an end. For its part, the United Nations planned follow-up political missions to take over from those peacekeeping operations, in order to consolidate their achievements.

10. In view of the intense demands being made of the Secretariat and Member States, owing to increased peacekeeping activities, the Under-Secretary-General drew the Committee's attention to three main challenges facing the Department of Peacekeeping Operations today: ensuring close coordination for all mandated activities; strengthening capacity to recruit personnel for the field; and facilitating the timely provision of material and financial resources. He appealed to Members of the Committee for help in identifying and providing these personnel, and underlined the need for flexibility and understanding, especially in the United Nations financial bodies. The Under-Secretary-General pointed out that ten operations now had civilian police components, but that only 4,719 of the authorized strength of nearly 9,000 officers had been deployed. The search for quantity was further complicated by requirements for skills and expertise, and without the full support of Member States, the United Nations could not rise to the challenges before it.

11. Addressing management concerns, the Under-Secretary-General sought the Committee's support to ensure departmental capacity to meet future demands. He took the opportunity to pay tribute to the extraordinary efforts made by the staff of the department in meeting the demands of the sudden upsurge in peacekeeping, but cautioned that such a pace could not be sustained in the long term.

12. In addition to those practical issues, the Under-Secretary-General highlighted four key policy challenges that had received particular attention over the past year. With regard to draft guidelines on general principles regarding the role of civilian police, he stressed an ongoing need to study various dimensions of the role of police in peacekeeping in more depth, and to build political consensus on various approaches. While the Department could act as a clearing house for such a review, he urged Member States to take the lead in organizing seminars or workshops on specific items. Other policy areas included: the implication of HIV/AIDS in the field; the guidelines on the observance of international humanitarian law by peacekeepers; and the development of United Nations cooperation with regional organizations.

13. Concluding his remarks, the Under-Secretary-General stressed that it was crucial that Member States and the Secretariat work together closely to ensure that the instrument of peacekeeping achieves its full potential. He pointed to lessons that could be learned from the tragedies that took place in Rwanda and Srebrenica, which include, *inter alia*: the requirement for clarity as to whether peacekeeping or peace enforcement was needed in a specific situation, and the provision of commensurate resources for each; the necessity of a credible deterrent capacity; the need to improve information flows, both between Member

States and the Secretariat, and within the Secretariat; and the key importance of sustained political will.

14. During the ensuing general debate, delegations welcomed the timely submission of the report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Committee (A/54/670). Many delegations continued to perceive peacekeeping as crucial to the United Nations in its primary responsibility of the maintenance of international peace and security, and urged that the capacity of the United Nations be enhanced in order to meet future challenges the Organization may be faced with in peacekeeping. Many delegations called for the Committee to ensure that the United Nations had full capability to plan, deploy and manage peacekeeping operations.

15. Noting that the new peacekeeping operations of the United Nations in Kosovo and East Timor were multidimensional and had complex mandates, many delegations stated that comprehensive and coordinated management of those operations was crucial to enhance their effectiveness and prevent duplication of efforts. Many other delegations noted that peacekeeping could not be a substitute for a permanent solution, nor for addressing the underlying causes of a conflict. They called for respect for the basic peacekeeping principles, namely the consent of the parties, the non-use of force, except in self-defence, and impartiality.

16. Many delegations noted that the continuum on which peacekeeping tasks are found, and from which the United Nations can draw, stretches from conflict prevention all the way to peace-building; in that regard, they recalled debates held recently in the Security Council on such topics as: disarmament, demobilization and reintegration; small arms; and the role of the Security Council in the prevention of armed conflicts. Recognizing the primary responsibility of the United Nations for the maintenance of international peace and security, those delegations stressed their readiness to assist in such areas as early warning, conflict prevention and post-conflict reconstruction.

17. Many delegations urged that the Security Council involve troop contributors in the process of consultations on the establishment or renewal of the mandate of a peacekeeping operation in a more meaningful manner from the very beginning. It was suggested that such involvement should be enhanced and transformed into direct consultations, rather than consultations through the Secretariat.

18. Many delegations believed that it was important that prospective troop-contributing nations be involved in the early stages of the planning of new missions. Recent experience suggested that provision of a sufficiently robust mandate at the beginning of an operation could lay the groundwork for a more orderly process later on. In addition, it was of paramount importance that the peacekeeping mandate be clear and achievable. Delegations welcomed the decision of the Secretariat to make weekly situation reports available to all troop contributors, and requested that monthly personnel strength reports also be distributed.

19. Many delegations drew attention to the report of the Secretary-General on the fall of Srebrenica (A/54/549) and to the report of the independent inquiry into the actions of the United Nations during the 1994 Genocide in Rwanda (S/1999/1257), describing them as perhaps the two most important documents in the history of United Nations peacekeeping. Many delegations recommended that the General Assembly address the Rwanda report, as it had the Srebrenica report, and stressed that the Special Committee should focus on the structural or technical problems highlighted in the reports, and suggest appropriate remedies.

20. It was stressed that now, more than ever, peacekeeping missions should highlight the principle of resolving conflicts thorough peaceful means and that it was impossible to stop a war by spreading it, and that maintenance of the leading role of the United Nations is a prerequisite for success in peacekeeping operations.

21. Concern was expressed regarding the concept of "humanitarian intervention", which could be used to legitimize the use of unilateral enforcement measures by a State or a group of States without approval of the Security Council. It was argued that such a policy was in contradiction with the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in accordance with which the Security Council bore the main responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security; and with other basic principles, such as national sovereignty, independence of States, and non-interference in internal affairs.

22. Many delegations attributed great importance to the issue of staffing in the Department and sought

clarification of its precise staffing needs, in order to ensure that the Secretariat has the adequate capacity to quickly respond to the challenges of fielding complex, multidimensional peacekeeping operations, more specifically to ensure that the Secretariat has the authority to access, on short notice, personnel with special expertise. Many delegations also underlined the importance of equitable geographic distribution in the staffing of the Department.

23. Many delegations stressed that coordination at every level must be a priority for United Nations peacekeeping. It was also suggested that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations be reinforced to improve planning and management capabilities. Many delegations also urged the Secretariat to make the fullest use of all relevant legislative instruments, including General Assembly resolution 51/243.

24. Many delegations stated that increased demands had highlighted problems, such as delays in deployment, leading to a diminished ability of the United Nations to respond adequately to needs of law and order maintenance where there exists a mandate for this purpose. It was stressed that a mechanism should be developed to facilitate the deployment of civilian experts to a peacekeeping mission.

25. Many delegations welcomed the Secretariat's efforts to increase procurement from developing countries, and hoped that the Procurement Division's video and CD-ROM project would be distributed as widely as possible, in all major languages, to all United Nations information centres. A detailed report on peacekeeping procurement was called for. It was suggested that the United Nations consider giving preferential treatment to developing countries in the matter of procurement for peacekeeping. Many delegations considered it an urgent priority to reform the procurement process to shorten procurement times, and looked forward to the completion of the Operational Support Manual.

26. Many delegations stressed that all Member States must meet their obligations under the Charter and pay their assessed contributions to the Organization in full, on time and without conditions. Stating that delays in reimbursement cause hardship to all troop and equipment-contributing countries, and may affect their ability to participate in peacekeeping, many delegations expressed their deep concern over such delays.

27. Many delegations welcomed the report of the Secretary-General on assistance in mine action (A/54/445) and looked forward to his forthcoming report on demining in peacekeeping operations.

28. Many delegations urged that whatever model or sample rules of engagement were used as the basis for the operational rules of engagement, they should be uniformly observed by all United Nations contingents participating in a mission.

29. The Secretary-General's bulletin on international humanitarian law (ST/SGB/1999/13) was referred to by many delegations. It was believed to serve a useful purpose in preventing unacceptable conduct by United Nations forces and in promoting respect for international humanitarian law. However, many delegations considered the matter still open, and several of them called for proper consultations on the bulletin between the Secretariat and Member States.

30. Many delegations expressed the view that, in cases of suspected misconduct of an individual, consultations between the mission leadership and the contributor concerned should begin the moment that misconduct was suspected.

31. Many delegations considered that an effective public information capacity was vital to the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel as well as to the fulfilment of the mandates of missions, and stressed that public information components should be incorporated in peacekeeping operations at the planning stage.

32. Many delegations supported the continued improvement of standards in the training of troops, civilian police and other personnel for peacekeeping. They emphasized that the programmes of the Training Unit, including the training assistance teams, must be maintained through adequate and efficient staffing levels. With regard to the in-mission-train-the-trainers initiative, many delegations welcomed the dynamism of the Department, but expressed their preference that such training take place prior to deployment. It was mentioned that a specific area of training addressed by some delegations was the implication of HIV/AIDS in the field. The need for documentation and supporting material to be translated into the various languages of the Organization was also expressed.

33. With regard to civilian police personnel requirements, many delegations recommended that the

Secretariat conduct advance briefings to possible contributing States on personnel requirements to streamline the selection procedure and enhance the coordination between the Office of the Civilian Police Advisor and the mission authorities. They recommended that the Secretariat seek to separate operations functions from logistics. Many other delegations suggested that the Civilian Police Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations should be at the centre of efforts to ensure the effective participation of civilian police officers in peacekeeping operations, and welcomed the recent strengthening of the Unit.

34. Many delegations looked forward to the finalization of the draft principles and guidelines for civilian police in peacekeeping, which are under preparation. Many delegations stressed that there should be a clear identification of tasks and functions for civilian police for each deployment, and urged further discussions on the matter in order to assess situations where there is no clear division between civilian police and military action.

35. Noting new needs in diverse areas, from public administration to water and electricity utilities to health services, many delegations believed that the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and Member States should consider how best to make available the necessary and qualified personnel for those non-military tasks. It was suggested that Member States should be informed as soon as possible when their offers to contribute peacekeepers were declined.

36. Many delegations requested the Secretariat to explore, together with Member States, alternatives to having active service police officers fill those posts required for training, administration, static guard duty, and corrections and customs functions. It was also proposed that, in view of the limited availability of police for international service, the United Nations should focus predominantly on educating and training local police who could become operative as soon as possible.

37. Many delegations called for the cooperation of Member States in notifying the Secretariat when resources earmarked for the standby arrangements system were in use and not available for participation in United Nations peacekeeping. It was stated that decisions on measures to improve rapid deployment capabilities should be made by Member States after thorough discussions and consultations in United Nations bodies such as the Special Committee. It was noted that the responsibility for ensuring a reliable and effective rapid deployment capacity must be shared by the Member States which provide the personnel, equipment and other resources. Many delegations urged the completion of the Rapidly Deployable Mission Headquarters, as called for previously by the Special Committee.

38. With regard to the Secretariat's reimbursement for death and disability, many delegations requested that the United Nations furnish the families of those staff members killed in service, with greater information on the status of their entitlements. The outstanding cases related to United Nations flight 806, which crashed in Angola in 1998, were mentioned as examples of inaction by the Secretariat in the timely disbursement of the death compensation due to affected families.

39. In the context of concerns regarding the safety and security of peacekeepers, many delegations stressed the importance they attached to the statute of the International Criminal Court, and called for its signature and ratification.

40. With regard to regional arrangements, many delegations emphasized that cooperation between the United Nations and these arrangements must abide by the letter and spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter and should take into account the existing instruments and mechanisms operating in each of the regional arrangements or agencies concerned. In this context, several delegations stressed that the primary role in the maintenance of international peace and security rested with the United Nations.

41. Many delegations attributed great importance to the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity. They supported efforts to establish a regular forum of African and non-African States for strengthening cooperation in various areas. A number of delegations regretted that no progress had been made on this initiative.

42. Several delegations stated that humanitarian assistance and peacekeeping were related, but distinct. Many delegations stated that if human rights and humanitarian assistance tasks were to be included in a mandate by the Security Council, they must be fully integrated into the planning of peacekeeping operations and their functions made clear from the start.

43. Many delegations underlined the importance they attached to selection of a female Chief of the Training Unit of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, and, on the one hand, expressed support for efforts to enhance gender-balanced participation, on a broad geographical basis, in all aspects and at all levels of peacekeeping operations. On the other hand, it was stressed that efforts must be made in order to address the concerns of those countries that were not in a position to present female candidates from countries that were unrepresented or were under-represented in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

44. Several delegations pointed to the issue of the mandate of the Special Committee and asked for a review of that mandate with a view to allowing the Committee to examine as wide a variety of activities related to peacekeeping as possible.

45. Many delegations considered the safety and security of peacekeepers, and of all United Nations and other humanitarian personnel, to be of significant importance. They suggested that the safety and security of all personnel was the joint responsibility of the Organization and Member States.

III. Proposals, recommendations and conclusions

A. Introduction

46. The Special Committee reaffirms that the primary responsibility for the maintenance of international peace and security rests with the United Nations, in accordance with the Charter, and affirms that peacekeeping continues to be one of the key instruments available to the United Nations in discharging that responsibility. The mandate of the Special Committee, as the only forum in the United Nations to review comprehensively the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects, including measures aimed at enhancing the capacity of the Organization to conduct peacekeeping operations, uniquely enables it to make a significant contribution to issues and policy relating to peacekeeping operations. It encourages other bodies, funds and programmes of the United Nations to avail themselves of the Special Committee's particular perspective on peacekeeping operations.

47. Noting that, during the past year, there has been a sudden surge in peacekeeping efforts of the United Nations in different parts of the world requiring participation by the Member States in various activities, the Special Committee considers it essential for the United Nations to be in an effective position to maintain international peace and security, *inter alia*, by improving the capacity to assess conflict situations, by effective planning and management of peacekeeping operations, and by responding quickly and effectively to any Security Council mandate.

48. Since the end of the cold war, there has been an increase in the number of complex peacekeeping operations. The Special Committee takes note that the Security Council has recently mandated peacekeeping operations which, in addition to the traditional tasks of monitoring and reporting, have included a number of other mandated activities. In that regard, the Special Committee stresses the importance of an effective Department of Peacekeeping Operations that is structured efficiently and staffed adequately.

49. The Special Committee pays tribute to the high level of professionalism, dedication and courage displayed by the men and women who have served and continue to serve in peacekeeping operations. Particular tribute is due to those who have given their lives for the maintenance of peace and security.

50. The Special Committee stresses the importance of consistently applying the principles and standards it has set forth for the establishment and conduct of peacekeeping operations, and also emphasizes the need to continue to consider those principles, as well as peacekeeping definitions, in a systematic fashion. New proposals or conditions concerning peacekeeping operations should be discussed in the Special Committee.

B. Guiding principles, definitions and implementation of mandates

51. The Special Committee stresses that peacekeeping operations should strictly observe the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. It emphasizes that respect for the principles of sovereignty, territorial integrity and political independence of States, and non-intervention in matters that are essentially within the domestic jurisdiction of any State, is crucial to common efforts,

including peacekeeping operations, to promote international peace and security.

52. The Special Committee believes that respect for the basic principles of peacekeeping, such as the consent of the parties, impartiality and the non-use of force except in self-defence, is essential to its success.

53. The Special Committee is of the view that peacekeeping operations should not be used as a substitute for addressing the root causes of conflict. Those causes should be addressed in a coherent, well planned, coordinated and comprehensive manner with political, social and developmental instruments. Consideration should be given to ways in which those efforts can continue without interruption after the departure of a peacekeeping operation, so as to ensure a smooth transition to lasting peace and security.

54. The Special Committee stresses that the Security Council's primary responsibility is the maintenance of international peace and security, pursuant to Article 24 of the Charter of the United Nations. The Special Committee notes the statement by the President of the Security Council of 29 December 1998 (S/PRST/1998/38), with regard to the inclusion, as appropriate, of peace-building elements in the mandates of peacekeeping operations, with a view to ensuring a smooth transition to a successful post-conflict phase. The Special Committee stresses the importance of those elements being explicitly defined and clearly identified before they are incorporated into the mandates of peacekeeping operations, whenever appropriate. The Committee emphasizes the role of the General Assembly in the formulation of post-conflict peace-building activities.

55. The Special Committee continues to stress the importance of peacekeeping operations being provided with clearly defined mandates, objectives and command structures, as well as secure financing, in support of efforts to achieve peaceful solutions to conflicts. It also stresses the need to ensure, in the formulation and implementation of mandates, congruity between mandates, resources and objectives. It emphasizes further that, when changes are made to existing mandates, commensurate changes should be made to the resources available to the peacekeeping operation to carry out its new mandate. Changes in a mandate during a mission should be based on a thorough and timely reassessment by the Security Council, including military advice, of the implications on the ground. The Committee also believes that such changes in mandates should occur after full discussion between contributing countries and the Council.

56. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure the unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations. It recalls that the overall political direction and control of the United Nations-mandated peacekeeping operations devolves upon the Security Council, while their execution remains the responsibility of the Secretary-General.

C. Consultations

57. The Special Committee, recalling paragraph 54 of its previous report (A/54/87) concerning consultations between troop contributors and the Security Council, encourages the Security Council to continue to take more formal steps to ensure the rigorous, timely and systematic implementation of the arrangements set out in the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 March 1996 (S/PRST/1996/13) and as amplified in the note by the President of the Security Council of 30 October 1998 (S/1998/1016). The Special Committee stresses the need, in the case of upcoming peacekeeping operations or the expansion of existing operations, to invite prospective troop contributors to consultations at the earliest possible stage in order to provide them with access to the information required and to enable them to make an informed decision on participation. The Special Committee also emphasizes that the consultations on mandates and those on operational questions are chaired by the President of the Security Council and by the Secretariat, respectively. Furthermore, it encourages the Secretary-General to ensure, where applicable, that his reports are made available to the troop contributors in a timely fashion prior to any consultations. The Special Committee encourages active participation in such meetings.

58. The Special Committee notes that the arrangements described in the statement of the President of the Security Council of 28 March 1996, regarding consultations with troop-contributing countries, are not exhaustive and that they do not preclude a variety of forms of consultation, including, where appropriate, between the President of the Security Council (or its members) and contributors, countries especially affected by the conflict situation under discussion and other countries from the region

concerned. The Special Committee encourages the Security Council to be mindful of this point.

59. The Special Committee once again draws the attention of the Secretariat to the fact that the latter's policies directly affecting the participation of Member States in peacekeeping operations have not always benefited from full transparency and consultation. The Special Committee calls upon the Secretariat to ensure that the Special Committee is consulted on issues affecting peacekeeping.

60. The Special Committee emphasizes that the planning process within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations must be more transparent and effective, and that the troop-contributing countries should be consulted at the earliest stages of mission planning.

61. In emphasizing the importance of the role of troop-contributing countries in the implementation of Security Council mandates on the ground, the Special Committee stresses that consultations between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries should be used to their fullest extent in the elaboration, change and extension of United Nations peacekeeping mandates. It also stresses that, when authorizing force, the Security Council should, in all cases, adhere to the relevant provisions of the Charter of the United Nations.

62. The Special Committee welcomes the assurances that the monthly peacekeeping strength reports will continue to be made available to Member States, and notes the availability of the weekly situation report through the Situation Centre of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Special Committee reiterates its request that copies of reports of the Secretary-General to the Security Council be provided to contributing countries in a timely manner prior to the convening of troop and police contributor meetings.

63. The Special Committee regrets that the progress report does not reflect an undertaking on the part of the Secretary-General to ensure that the Special Committee is consulted in the course of the development of policy and issues affecting peacekeeping personnel. The Committee reaffirms its conviction that meaningful and transparent consultation between the Secretariat and the Special Committee on such occasions will promote effectiveness in the implementation of such policies. The Special Committee accordingly reiterates its request that it be consulted prior to finalization of all policies and issues affecting peacekeeping personnel.

64. The Special Committee strongly recommends that Member States concerned be fully consulted and provided on a timely basis with a copy of all United Nations internal investigations or inquiries into incidents, including the final outcome reached, which involve the death or injury of personnel from Member States or loss/theft of property of Member States.

65. The Special Committee emphasizes that consultation with the Member State concerned is necessary when mission authorities take any action including repatriation or investigation in the event of misconduct by peacekeeping personnel. In this context, the Special Committee emphasizes that national contingent commanders have the sole authority for any disciplinary action in respect of misconduct by a member of their contingent. The Committee draws attention to the fact that national legislation may, in some instances, preclude a Member State from taking any disciplinary action following repatriation of its involved personnel if mission authorities have already taken unilateral in-theatre action. Noting paragraph 16 of the Secretary-General's progress report (A/54/670), the Committee requests the Secretariat to develop, in consultation with Member States, a set of guidelines governing action to be taken in such instances and requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on the request in his next report.

66. The Special Committee also notes the difficulties experienced by Member States in prosecuting personnel repatriated from mission areas who are accused of having committed serious crimes. The Special Committee therefore recommends that, in cases of gross misconduct, Member States concerned be invited to take part in the investigation to the greatest extent possible, for example, through representation in the force-level international military police unit, bearing in mind the need to maintain discipline in the mission area and the desirability of justice being done in all such cases.

D. Enhancing the capacity of the United Nations for peacekeeping

1. Personnel

67. The Special Committee notes that a comprehensive review of the Department of

Peacekeeping Operations is still outstanding. In this regard, the Committee requests the Secretary-General to conduct such a comprehensive review of the management, structure, recruitment processes and interrelationships of all relevant elements within the Secretariat that play a role in peacekeeping operations, taking into account the necessity to ensure the ability of the Secretariat to face the challenges of United Nations peacekeeping operations and to enhance United Nations rapid deployment capability. The Special Committee emphasizes that this review should focus, *inter alia*, on the coordinated planning, deployment, management and support of United Nations peacekeeping operations, logistics and procurement, in the light of recent experience and the lessons derived from today's complex peacekeeping operations, with due regard to safety and security. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to report on this review prior to its next session.

68. The Special Committee reaffirms that all provisions of Articles 100 and 101 of the Charter should be fully and strictly observed in the management and conduct of peacekeeping operations.

69. Full consideration must be given to all offers made by Member States to participate in peacekeeping operations, and the Member States concerned should be advised in writing of the reasons underlying the Department's decision not to accept their offered contribution.

70. Recalling General Assembly resolution 51/226 of 3 April 1997, the Special Committee notes the adoption of General Assembly resolution 53/221 of 7 April 1999 on human resources management, in which the Assembly, *inter alia*, "urges the Secretary-General, when making appointments to posts subject to geographical distribution, to continue and intensify his efforts to ensure that all Member States, in particular unrepresented and under-represented Member States, are adequately represented in the Secretariat" regular budget posts related to peacekeeping operations. Bearing in mind the relevant provisions of the Charter, the Special Committee recalls, in this context, that of paramount consideration shall be the necessity of securing the highest standards of efficiency, competence and integrity. The Committee welcomes the Secretariat's assurances that vacancies will be announced to Member States in a more timely fashion in future, preferably with no less than 90 days' notice, as well as the plan to implement a three-year cyclical recruitment/rotation programme.

71. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to explore with Member States how best to make available, in a coordinated manner, necessary and appropriately qualified personnel for non-military tasks.

72. The Special Committee stresses the importance of having senior military commanders, police commissioners and key staff personnel selected, prepared and trained prior to their deployment to a peacekeeping operation. Recognizing that selection is based on mission requirements and professional merit, with due regard given to geographic distribution and political considerations, a more thorough review of candidates prior to selection is recommended.

73. The Special Committee welcomes implementation of the improved procedures for selection of personnel for senior field appointments, and notes that this process can be further refined. In the interest of improving the selection of senior field appointments, the Committee believes it would be preferable if the senior United Nations officials conducting interviews have experience of United Nations peacekeeping in the field and encourages the Secretariat to work towards this goal.

74. The Special Committee recommends that, to facilitate the nomination of the most suitable candidate from Member States, only one candidate from each country should travel to New York, if required for the conduct of the applicable interviews. The Committee requests the Secretariat to inform the Member State concerned of the outcome of all such applications.

75. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to look into the improvement of the working conditions of the local staff in those United Nations peacekeeping missions where there is a need for such an improvement.

76. The Committee notes that the progress report does not address its concern that active-service military and police officers be adequately represented, and reiterates its recommendation that all future staffing actions undertaken by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations reflect the important contribution which such personnel can make to peacekeeping operations at the Headquarters level.

77. The Special Committee recommends that the internal staffing procedures in use by the Secretariat be reviewed with a view to ensuring that the process adequately supports the particular demands of rapid deployment.

78. The Special Committee recognizes the increasing need for the participation of female personnel, on a broad geographical basis, in all aspects of peacekeeping operations. The Committee encourages the development and implementation of innovative strategies to further that aim and recommends that an analysis of the effectiveness of such strategies be included in the reports of the Secretary-General on peacekeeping operations. The Committee further notes that the capacity of a number of troop-contributing Member States to provide female candidates for military and civilian police posts remains limited, and recommends that the Secretariat take this into account when recruiting candidates for those posts.

79. The Special Committee notes the Secretary-General's comments contained in his report relating to the ad hoc international criminal tribunals and the provision of testimony before such tribunals by peacekeeping personnel (A/54/670, para. 25). The Special Committee reiterates its request that the Secretariat keep Member States continuously apprised of all developments in that regard.

80. The Special Committee again notes that the progress report does not address the issue of the status of the sample rules of engagement. Nor does the report address the Committee's concern that Member States be consulted, through the Special Committee, prior to the Secretariat making any significant changes to the sample rules, or that both present and prospective personnel contributors be consulted prior to any similar changes to mission rules of engagement. The Committee reiterates its request that the Secretariat implement such a consultation mechanism, and that the Secretary-General provide an update in this regard in his next report.

81. The Special Committee requests the Secretariat to consult all prospective troop contributors in the formulation of rules of engagement for new missions, with a view to ensuring their uniform application.

82. The Special Committee notes the Secretary-General's comments on the guidelines on compliance with international humanitarian law by United Nations peacekeepers. The Committee expresses concern about the lack of consultation with Member States by the Secretariat before finalizing Secretary-General's Bulletin ST/SGB/1999/13. It requests further clarification on the Bulletin's legal status, and stresses that it must accurately reflect the terms of international humanitarian law. It requests the Secretary-General to carry out consultations on the Bulletin with the Special Committee.

83. The Special Committee stresses the importance of Member States providing basic knowledge of international humanitarian law to United Nations peacekeeping personnel during pre-deployment orientation.

84. The Committee notes that little information has been provided by the Secretariat as to the status of preparation and issue of the Dag Hammarskjöld Medal, and requests the Secretariat to provide a status report on this question during the mid-year briefing to an informal meeting of the Fourth Committee during its autumn session.

2. Organization, planning and coordination

85. The Special Committee stresses the importance of a correctly staffed and flexible Department of Peacekeeping Operations that is capable of responding swiftly and effectively to the increased demands placed on it by the planning and deployment of missions. The Committee stresses the need for a comprehensive and coordinated management of peacekeeping operations, both at Headquarters and in the field.

86. The Special Committee reinforces the need to ensure that the structure and staffing of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations contains an effective and efficient medical planning and support capacity.

87. The Special Committee takes note of the functioning of coordination mechanisms within the Secretariat, at both the working and executive levels, to avoid duplication and overlap and to improve the Secretariat's effectiveness in addressing conflict situations. It encourages the Secretariat to continue to use these mechanisms to their fullest extent and to maintain coordination with United Nations agencies and regional organizations.

88. The Special Committee notes that the increasing complexity of United Nations peacekeeping operations places additional demands upon the Special Representatives of the Secretary-General in

discharging this critical coordination function in the field with United Nations agencies and regional organizations. The Committee stresses that Special Representatives should be granted the appropriate authority and adequate resources to fulfil their responsibilities efficiently and effectively.

89. The Special Committee notes the importance of early planning and regular or day-to-day coordination for peacekeeping operations and other mandated activities designed to reduce the risk of resumption of conflict and to contribute to creating the conditions most conducive to reconciliation, reconstruction and recovery. To this end, the Committee takes note of the participation by the Department in the Executive Committee on Peace and Security, and emphasizes the need to further strengthen consultations among departments and United Nations agencies to avoid duplication and overlap and to improve effectiveness.

90. The Special Committee reiterates the importance of exercising transparency in selecting troop contributors, in particular, in the use of the United Nations standby arrangements system. It welcomes increased contributions of Member States to the standby arrangements system, and encourages other Member States which have not already done so to join it. The Committee also encourages the Secretariat to consult first with contributors to the system and also with other Member States regarding necessary capabilities to overcome the existing deficiencies referred to by the Secretary-General in his report of 30 March 1999 (S/1999/361).

91. While welcoming the progress made to improve the coordination of military and civilian components of peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue its integrated approach both at Headquarters and in the field.

92. The Special Committee stresses the importance of timely, efficient, transparent and cost-effective procurement of goods and services in support of peacekeeping operations.

93. The Special Committee invites the Secretariat to explore means of enhancing the logistics readiness of the United Nations, in particular through a broader use of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi and reserve stocks, as well as a reassessment of the start-up kits, including their scope and number.

94. The Special Committee notes that the explanation provided in paragraph 35 of the report of the Secretary-General (A/54/670) does not address the provisions of paragraphs 13, 14, 15 and 19 of General Assembly resolution 52/226 of 31 March 1998, and requests the Secretariat to provide members of the Special Committee with a written status report in that regard.

95. The Special Committee recognizes that shortened procurement times are required should the United Nations wish to fulfil its commitment to react swiftly to conflicts and deploy rapidly, and requests the Secretary-General to undertake a comprehensive review of the procurement and requisitioning process. The Committee also requests the Secretary-General to include in his annual report on procurement reform a detailed section addressing field procurement, with particular emphasis on a more flexible and timely contracting mechanism for new missions, including local procurement, where applicable.

96. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to address, in a detailed manner, peacekeeping procurement in his next report to the Special Committee.

97. The Committee, while noting the progress made to date in developing the Operational Support Manual, observes that the report does not address the issue of harmonizing the Manual with other related mission support manuals, and recommends that the manuals be harmonized.

98. The progress report does not address the Committee's request for an update on the Secretariat's achievements over the past year against the set of logistics support objectives which it had presented to the Special Committee during its 1999 session (see A/54/87, para. 78). The Committee emphasizes the urgent need to develop an over-arching logistics concept to guide the efficient coordination between planning and management, establish a cost-effective use of resources, integrate support to civilian, military and civilian police staff in the field and produce an up-to-date set of contractual and procurement regulations.

99. The Special Committee notes that a meeting of the contingent-owned equipment Phase V Working Group was held recently to consider reimbursement-related issues, and expresses the hope that its recommendations will be further considered by the post-Phase V Working Group meeting in 2001 with participation by representatives with appropriate

technical expertise. In this regard, Member States are asked to submit the data required by the Secretariat.

100. The Special Committee welcomes the Secretariat's circulation of the revised Manual on Policies and Procedures concerning Reimbursement and Control of Contingent-owned Equipment of Troop-contributing Countries Participating in Peacekeeping Missions (the COE Manual-2000) for comments by Member States and requests the Secretariat to update the Manual following approval of the results of the revised Manual on Policies and Procedures concerning Reimbursement and Control of Contingent-owned Equipment of Troop-contributing Countries Participating in Peacekeeping Missions Phase V Working Group and to make it available at the earliest opportunity in all of the official languages of the United Nations.

101. The Special Committee, mindful of the range of projects currently in hand or contemplated for the Lessons Learned Unit, recommends that the Unit convene a meeting of interested Member States, with a view to developing mechanisms for validating lessons learned at field level, and that the Secretary-General include an update on this issue in his next report.

102. Given the developments of peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee recommends that experience derived from past peacekeeping operations be incorporated into peacekeeping policy and planning, so as to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of future missions.

103. The Special Committee stresses the need to ensure that equal importance be given to the maintenance of peace and security in all regions of the world and, in this regard, emphasizes with concern the need for full commitment and additional resources to be given to the conduct of peacekeeping operations in Africa. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to address this issue in his next progress report to the Special Committee.

104. The Special Committee looks forward to receiving the Secretariat's report on demining in peacekeeping operations. The Committee recognizes the role of the Mine-Action Service within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations as the focal point within the United Nations for ensuring the coordinated and effective mine-action efforts of the United Nations, its agencies, Member States and other organizations, and emphasizes that the role of the Service should continue to encompass core components, such as victim assistance and rehabilitation, minefield mapping, mine-awareness education and coordination with the mine-action donor community.

105. The Special Committee takes note of the report of the Secretary-General of 11 February 2000 (S/2000/101) on the role of United Nations peacekeeping in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration. The Committee notes that those activities may form a continuum, whose elements overlap with one another.

106. The Special Committee notes that in some peacekeeping operations an effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme can make a valuable contribution to peace and regional stability, and encourages the Secretariat to formalize a mechanism for retaining lessons learned on such programmes. It recommends that the programmes be provided with adequate resources and emphasizes that the political will of the parties to commit themselves to peace is vital to a successful disarmament, demobilization and reintegration process.

107. The Special Committee stresses that, to promote compliance with the objectives of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes within a peacekeeping operation, mission planners must ensure that the security of disarmed soldiers is an integral part of any programme.

108. The Special Committee also recommends that mission planning for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration aspects of peacekeeping operations consider and accommodate the special needs of women and children in such programmes.

109. The Special Committee emphasizes the need to differentiate between peacekeeping operations and humanitarian assistance. However, if protection of humanitarian assistance is a mandated task of a United Nations peacekeeping operation, the Committee is of the view that both should be coordinated, in order to ensure that they are not working at cross purposes and that the impartiality of humanitarian assistance is ensured. In that context, the Committee takes note of the statements by the President of the Security Council of 19 June 1997 (S/PRST/1997/34) and of 29 September 1998 (S/PRST/1998/30), and of the report of the Secretary-General of 22 September 1998 (S/1998/883), all of which underlined the importance

of ensuring clear, appropriate and realistic mandates to be implemented in a timely, effective and impartial manner, as well as ensuring adequate resources to United Nations peacekeeping operations established or authorized to protect humanitarian assistance in conflict situations. The Special Committee emphasizes that the conduct of peacekeeping operations and humanitarian activities does not absolve host Governments and parties to the conflicts from their responsibility towards the victims of a conflict among populations.

3. Status-of-forces agreements and status-of-mission agreements

110. The Special Committee is disappointed that the compendium of instances in which the Organization is due restitution, as a result of non-compliance with status-of-forces agreements or other agreements, is still not completed. It reiterates the need for the Secretary-General to fulfil the request made by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions in its report of 14 October 1996 (A/51/491, para. 11) to provide the compendium and to withhold claims submitted by Member States concerned until the matter of expenditures is resolved.

111. The Special Committee notes and concurs with the requirement for flexible application of the model status-of-forces agreement in accommodation of changing developments in peacekeeping practice, and welcomes the inclusion in future status-of-forces agreements of provisions regarding the responsibility of host Governments in respect of the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel.

112. The Special Committee attaches the same importance to status-of-mission agreements as it does status-of-forces agreements and requests the Secretariat to report to the Special Committee on the possibility of developing a model status-of-mission agreement, in consultation with Member States.

4. Safety and security

113. The Special Committee expresses its grave concern about the growing number of attacks and acts of violence against United Nations and associated personnel and, in that connection, recalls the statement by the President of the Security Council of 12 March 1997 (S/PRST/1997/13), in which he emphasized that host countries and others concerned must take all appropriate steps to ensure their safety and security. The Special Committee takes note of the progress achieved in the legal protection of the security of United Nations and associated personnel, *inter alia*, the entry into force of the Convention on the Safety of United Nations and Associated Personnel. The Special Committee urges those States which have not yet done so to consider becoming parties to the Convention as soon as possible. At the same time, the Special Committee takes note of the need to explore the possibilities for further ensuring the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel.

114. The Special Committee reaffirms that safety and security constitute integral elements of the planning and conduct of peacekeeping operations. The Committee stresses the need for peacekeeping forces to be properly configured and discrepancies between mandates and resources avoided. It recognizes that development of a comprehensive security plan at the commencement of a peacekeeping operation is essential.

115. The Special Committee also encourages the Secretariat to ensure an efficient and continuous flow of information to Member States in all phases of peacekeeping operations, especially prior to evacuation, in the immediate wake of tragic developments, or in periods of crises. The Committee requests that, when a crisis affects the safety and security of peacekeeping personnel, the Secretariat make full and immediate information available to the Member States concerned. It also urges the Secretariat to review continuously the safety of flight operations with its field personnel and, in the event of a tragic occurrence, to share without delay the results of any subsequent investigation with all contributors to the mission.

116. The Committee emphasizes that peacekeeping operations must be provided with clear mandates and adequate resources, that appropriate protection and security measures be included in mission design and planning, that initial mission cost estimates make adequate provision for personnel safety, that missions be provided with necessary logistics support, that personnel safety and security be stressed in pre-deployment training standards, and that status-of-forces agreements/status-of-mission agreements include specific and practical measures to enhance personnel safety and security, based on the provisions of the Convention. The Committee urges the Department of

Peacekeeping Operations to complete as soon as possible a general and comprehensive review of security requirements. The Committee reiterates its encouragement to the Secretariat to convene a seminar on the safety and security of United Nations personnel in peacekeeping operations to facilitate the review.

117. The Special Committee notes the critical role played by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations Air Safety Unit in ensuring the safety and security of United Nations peacekeeping personnel, and requests that the Unit be considered as part of the Secretary-General's comprehensive review

118. The Special Committee emphasizes the vital importance of all peacekeeping personnel receiving security briefings upon arrival in the mission area. Mission authorities must ensure that peacekeepers are thoroughly briefed on major potential threats associated with the environment and that they are given specific guidance to avoid hazardous situations.

119. The Special Committee takes note that the Operational Support Manual now includes a chapter on air safety, and recommends that a reference to the need to strictly observe mandatory requirements of Member States be incorporated therein. The Committee also recommends that, when the Secretariat contracts commercial carriers to undertake night flying operations, specific provisions to that effect be included in the contract with the carriers concerned.

120. The Special Committee recognizes the important contribution which public information, especially radio, can make towards attainment of mission mandates, *inter alia*, by providing the local population with access to reliable and objective information about mission goals and objectives. In this regard, the Special Committee reiterates the role which such a capacity can play in enhancing personnel safety and security in United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Committee reinforces its support for the Secretariat's efforts to address public information requirements in the planning process as well as in the start-up phase of peacekeeping operations, and strongly supports the close cooperation between the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Information in such efforts and encourages further enhancement of this cooperation. The Committee believes that spokespersons within peacekeeping operations should be personnel, preferably seconded from the Department of Public Information, who have the necessary skills for fulfilling that specific task.

5. Training

121. The Special Committee, noting the increasingly close and direct contact between United Nations peacekeeping personnel and local populations during peacekeeping operations, stresses the importance of participants in peacekeeping operations being given, prior to deployment, specific training which addresses local cultural sensitivities, including, where appropriate and applicable, gender-sensitivity training. The Committee encourages the Secretariat, as well as Member States, to include and develop that aspect in their efforts to promote training norms for United Nations peacekeeping personnel.

122. The Special Committee is concerned that the shortfall in staff in the Training Unit will have a negative impact on its important work and should be corrected. The Training Unit's programmes, including the training assistance teams, should be maintained through adequate and efficient staffing levels.

123. The Special Committee notes the Secretary-General's comments regarding the Secretariat's efforts in providing training materials in all the official languages of the United Nations. It maintains, however, that the Secretary-General's report to the Special Committee should contain an update on this issue, including measures taken to secure appropriate funding.

124. The Committee commends the effective work being accomplished by members of the United Nations Training and Assistance Team programme, under the successful coordination of the Training Unit. The Committee recommends that the United Nations Training and Assistance Team concept be broadened to include additional functional areas of peacekeeping, such as communications, peacekeeping finances, personnel administration, engineering and other, more specific, areas of general logistics (e.g. vehicle maintenance, fleet management, warehousing, etc.), and strongly encourages the vigorous participation of Member States in providing the necessary instructional staff.

125. The Special Committee reiterates its encouragement to the Secretariat to continue to provide assistance for the conduct of regional training

programmes through the Secretariat's participation, or by any other means feasible.

126. The Special Committee encourages continued attention to gender-sensitivity training for peacekeeping personnel, at both Headquarters and field level.

127. The Special Committee believes that, with reference to the in-mission train-the-trainers initiative, the cohesiveness of a peacekeeping unit, once deployed, should be maintained at all times. It would therefore be preferable if all training of this sort took place prior to any deployment to the theatre.

128. The Special Committee recognizes the concerns of Member States regarding medical aspects of peacekeeping operations, including the high risk of the transmission and contraction of HIV/AIDS and other communicable diseases facing United Nations peacekeeping and other personnel in the field. It welcomes the Training Unit's ongoing efforts, including during pre-deployment orientation, to raise awareness of these diseases and requests the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to incorporate language into the "Guidelines for Military and CIVPOL Participation in Peacekeeping Operations" manuals, to further raise peacekeepers' awareness of these diseases. The Committee further requests the Training Unit to conduct this awareness through the train-the-trainers programme.

129. The Special Committee recognizes that various elements of a peacekeeping operation are addressed during the pre-mission technical survey and requests that consideration be given to including a member of the Training Unit in the pre-mission technical survey team to assess the unique training requirements for each mission.

130. The Special Committee emphasizes that the activities of the Training Unit should take into account the increased requirements of civilian police in peacekeeping operations, and calls for enhanced cooperation between Member States in training civilian police personnel for United Nations peacekeeping operations, pursuant to United Nations training standards.

6. Civilian police

131. The Special Committee recognizes that the increased role of civilian police components in United Nations peacekeeping operations should be adequately reflected in the structures of the Department of Peacekeeping Operations. The Committee stresses the need further to strengthen the Civilian Police Unit in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and enhance the role of the Civilian Police Advisor, in the context of the overall review of the Department, with a view to ensuring that it possesses the necessary structure and staffing, in a timely and effective manner, to recruit, deploy and manage civilian police officers in United Nations peacekeeping operations. Such a review should include, *inter alia*, integrated and coordinated planning, training, logistics, administrative issues and operational oversight capacity.

132. The Special Committee considers that, in conducting a peacekeeping operation, while close coordination and cooperation are essential, care should be taken to ensure that, consistent with the mandate, police and military tasks are clearly defined and differentiated.

133. The Special Committee, noting the recent increase in activities carried out by civilian police in United Nations peacekeeping operations and missions, recommends that the Secretariat urgently undertake, in close consultation with Member States, the development of a comprehensive set of policies on such activities. These policies should address all related issues, including, for example, the objectives of the Selection Assistance Team mechanism, policy on development and implementation of the rules of engagement for civilian police, the operational objectives underlying the Special Police Unit concept, the relationship between civilian police and military forces in United Nations missions, goals and objectives of cultural and gender sensitivity for civilian police operations and modalities for training local police. The Committee also recommends that these policies be articulated through the guidelines for civilian police.

134. The Special Committee reiterates that the Secretariat should develop guidelines regarding the role of United Nations civilian police. These include, *inter alia*, procedures and standards for the selection, training and deployment of civilian police, as well as for the effective coordination of civilian police matters at Headquarters and the conduct of civilian police operations in the field. The Committee recommends that the Secretariat treat this as a priority to be finalized as soon as possible, in close consultation with Member States. The guidelines should be in accordance

with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and norms of international law. In this context, the Committee notes the holding of a workshop in July 1999 as a follow-up to the March 1998 Civilian Police Seminar and the intention of the Secretariat to convene another seminar in Spain in 2000.

135. The Special Committee emphasizes that, where United Nations peacekeeping operations are required and mandated to develop a functioning domestic police service, it is of the utmost importance that activities such as recruitment, selection and training of local police officers be undertaken at an early stage in the operation. In this regard, the Committee also emphasizes that it is of vital importance that mission budgets contain sufficient personnel, *matériel* and financial resources for the establishment of local police academies, when required.

136. The Special Committee views with concern the current disparity between the requirements for United Nations civilian police and the ability of the international community to meet those requirements. In this regard, the Committee requests that the Secretariat explore the feasibility, in consultation with all current and prospective contributions, of alternatives for meeting the increasing demand for civilian police personnel, including the use of qualified non-active service personnel as civilian police officers and for related functions, including training duties, and the use of these and other personnel for essential tasks, such as administrative functions, guard duty, traffic control, as well as corrections and customs duties.

137. The Special Committee notes that the current use of English, as the only accepted language of work in most United Nations civilian police operations, denies the opportunity to many non-English-speaking countries to participate in such missions. Therefore, the Committee recommends that the Secretariat expand ways to ensure wider participation by Member States, keeping in mind the need to maintain safe, secure, efficient and effective field missions.

138. The Special Committee recognizes that the Selection Assistance Team provides valuable assistance to Member States in the selection of police personnel for deployment to United Nations missions. The Committee recommends that the modalities of the Selection Assistance Team concept be clarified and incorporated into the civilian police guidelines. In addition, in order to reduce the number of visits by the Team to a Member State and to maximize the productivity and effectiveness of such visits, the Committee urges the Secretariat to develop operationally effective Selection Assistance Team testing standards, with a view to maximizing the number of police officers who can be cleared, during a single Team visit, for all United Nations civilian police service for which such standards apply. The Committee emphasizes that, once national police personnel are tested during a Team visit, they should not be re-tested on arrival in the mission area.

139. The Special Committee emphasizes that the rules of engagement for United Nations civilian police personnel mandated and required to carry arms should be formulated keeping in mind the potentially dangerous situations likely to be encountered by such personnel in the performance of their duties. The Special Committee reiterates that the development, finalization and implementation of rules of engagement for civilian police should be undertaken in all cases with meaningful consultations between the Secretariat and the Member States.

7. Standby arrangements and rapid deployment

140. The Special Committee stresses the importance of the Organization being able to respond and deploy rapidly to a peacekeeping operation upon the adoption of a Security Council mandate.

141. The Special Committee notes that the United Nations rapid deployment capability is a comprehensive concept which includes such elements as the operations of the United Nations standby arrangement system, the rapidly deployable mission headquarters, initiation of the contingent-owned equipment negotiation process early in the mission planning process, availability of an effective mission start-up funding mechanism, effective integration of support mechanisms, such as the start-up kit concept and the role of the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, and development of timely and adequate in-theatre quick-activation contracting mechanisms for support. It further notes that both Member States and the United Nations Secretariat share the responsibility for the effectiveness of this rapid deployment capacity.

142. The Special Committee emphasizes that the critical importance of the contingent-owned equipment concept goes beyond its utility as a financial

mechanism for determining cost recovery between the United Nations and Member States. The concept is vital to mission and mission support planning, as well as to mission budgeting, on the part of both the United Nations and the Member State concerned. As noted earlier in the present report, contingent-owned equipment is an indispensable element in an effective United Nations rapid deployment capability. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to expedite its work to link contingent-owned equipment to the United Nations stand-by arrangements system in order to realize its full potential for rapid deployment capability.

143. Where critical mission start-up *matériel* and services are subject to extended procurement lead times, the Secretariat is encouraged to maintain a minimum stock of such items on hand. The Special Committee also recommends that the appropriate General Assembly bodies explore additional contracting authority mechanisms to permit accelerated procurement for such items.

144. The Special Committee, expressing its dissatisfaction over the lack of progress in implementing further the concept of the rapidly deployable mission headquarters, and noting the Secretary-General's comments in respect of the difficulty of establishing the remaining six rapidly deployable mission headquarters military positions through redeployment, regrets that those positions have not been established, as approved by the General Assembly, and recommends that they be established and filled as quickly as possible, keeping in mind the principle of equitable geographic representation, and that the rapidly deployable mission headquarters requirement be incorporated into the structural review proposed earlier in the present report.

145. The Special Committee, noting the special relevance and importance of third-party loans of operational equipment to Member States participating in peacekeeping operations, requests the appropriate bodies of the General Assembly to formulate a mechanism of such a process within the context of the contingent-owned equipment concept.

146. The Special Committee, noting the delays caused by the lack of suitable accommodation in recent United Nations peacekeeping operations, calls upon the Secretariat to recommend appropriate measures, particularly with regard to the ability of missions to accept and deploy civilian police personnel, to overcome this problem in future, in consultation with troop-contributing States, including as part of the mission start-up kit concept.

147. The Special Committee reiterates its support for the necessary funding to permit immediate replenishment of the mission start-up kits at the United Nations Logistics Base at Brindisi, in order to restore that element of rapid deployment capacity to its full effectiveness. The Committee strongly encourages the Secretariat to review the current role and function of the Logistics Base, with a view to promoting its potential as a forward logistics and *matériel* staging area for peacekeeping operations. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on this review in his next report.

8. Finances

148. The Special Committee stresses that all Member States must pay their assessed contributions in full, on time and without conditions, and it reaffirms the obligation of Member States under Article 17 of the Charter to bear the expenses of the Organization as apportioned by the General Assembly, bearing in mind the special responsibility of permanent members of the Security Council, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 1874 (S-IV) of 27 June 1963. The delay in reimbursements to troop contributors remains a deep concern for the Committee; such delays cause hardship to all troop- and equipment-contributing countries, especially developing countries. The Special Committee encourages the Secretariat to continue to expedite the processing of all claims.

149. The Special Committee encourages the Secretary-General to sensitize all departments involved in the peacekeeping reimbursement process to the need to resolve current delays in reimbursing Member States for such costs as soon as funds are available. The Committee emphasizes that its key concern in such cases is the timeliness of the reimbursement mechanism and procedures.

150. The Special Committee highlights, once again, the impact of delays in reimbursement on the ability of Member States, especially those from the developing world, to participate in and sustain participation in peacekeeping operations. In this regard, the Committee strongly encourages the Secretariat to accelerate reimbursement of those countries which contribute

personnel and/or equipment to peacekeeping operations.

151. The Committee notes that the issue of pre-deployment immunization and post-repatriation medical treatment costs for peacekeeping personnel has been taken up by the contingent-owned equipment Phase V Working Group, and supports the consideration of this issue in the appropriate bodies of the General Assembly, from the perspective of enhancing the ability of Member States to participate in peacekeeping operations.

152. The Special Committee reiterates its request that the Secretariat ensure that mission budget proposals contain adequate provisions for the enhancement of the safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel.

153. While reiterating the need for adequate financial resources to be provided for United Nations peacekeeping operations, the Special Committee notes the conditions which govern the operations of United Nations trust funds, and requests that the Secretariat provide a regular update during the next regular session of the General Assembly on their impact on the applicable peacekeeping operations, advise on the steps taken or contemplated to ensure timely and efficient disbursement of funds from these trust funds and provide an undertaking to keep the Committee informed of the terms of any future peacekeeping trust funds which are established.

154. With a view to improving the conditions for those peacekeepers who are injured while in the service of the United Nations as well as the families of those peacekeeping personnel who have died while in service, the Special Committee urges the Secretariat to accelerate the verification and claims payment process. The Committee requests the Secretary-General to provide an update on this issue in his next report.

155. The Special Committee expresses its deep regret at the failure of the Secretariat to take the necessary action to disburse death compensation to the families of the victims of United Nations flights 806 and 806A which crashed in Angola in December 1998 and January 1999. The Committee urges the Secretary-General to ensure the completion of this process and the expeditious disbursement of death compensation.

E. Cooperation with regional arrangements

156. Bearing in mind the primacy of the United Nations in the maintenance of international peace and security, the Special Committee reaffirms the important contribution that regional arrangements and agencies can make to peacekeeping, in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, where appropriate and when the mandate and scope of regional arrangements and agencies allow them to do so.

157. The Special Committee emphasizes that, in accordance with Article 53 of the Charter, no enforcement action shall be taken under regional arrangements or by regional agencies without the authorization of the Security Council. Furthermore, the Council shall at all times be kept fully informed of activities undertaken or contemplated by regional arrangements or regional agencies for the maintenance of international peace and security.

158. The Special Committee urges the strengthening of cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements and agencies within their respective mandates, scope and composition to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security. It appreciates the possibility of the practical realization of such cooperation at the regional and subregional levels and encourages the Secretary-General to take concrete steps towards that end. In that regard, the Committee notes the successful cooperation between the United Nations and a number of regional and subregional arrangements and agencies.

159. While the Special Committee recognizes the need to strengthen cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations, however, as pointed out by the Secretary-General in his report (A/54/670, para. 89), it should be borne in mind that, regardless of the arrangements made within any particular mission, cooperation between the United Nations and regional organizations inevitably poses considerable challenges, which cannot be solved without ongoing efforts by the international community. The Special Committee recommends that the Secretary-General elaborate in his next progress report on how these challenges can best be tackled.

160. The Special Committee stresses that cooperation between the United Nations and relevant regional arrangements and agencies in the context of peacekeeping must abide by the letter and spirit of Chapter VIII of the Charter. Such cooperation must also take into account the existing instruments and mechanisms operating in each of the regional arrangements and agencies concerned.

161. The Special Committee is of the view that efforts aimed at enhancing the capacity of African countries in the various aspects of peacekeeping are complementary to the obligations of all United Nations Member States under the Charter with regard to their contribution in maintaining peace and security in Africa, and are not intended to replace or reduce engagement of non-African countries in peacekeeping operations in the continent.

162. The Special Committee stresses that international efforts aimed at enhancing the collective capacity of African countries to participate in peacekeeping operations should focus on enhancing the institutional capacity of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) and in particular its Mechanism for Conflict Prevention, Management and Resolution, through the provision of financial and technical assistance. In this connection, the Committee underlines the relevance and importance of the OAU Peace Fund, and urges Member States to contribute to it.

163. The Special Committee encourages Member States to contribute to current efforts aimed at enhancing the participation of African countries in peacekeeping operations, *inter alia*, through partnerships between States, and with OAU and subregional organizations in the fields of training, logistics, equipment and financial support. The Special Committee reiterates its view that the United Nations, in consultation with OAU and with the cooperation of Member States, should play an active role, especially in coordinating all those efforts and urges Member States to contribute to the Trust Fund established by the Secretary-General for that purpose. It also encourages Member States to provide financial and other support to the current study of peacekeeping operations conducted by African subregional organizations.

164. The Special Committee looks forward to the establishment of a group on the enhancement of African peacekeeping capacity, which was proposed by the Secretariat in August 1998. The Committee urges the Secretariat to continue its consultations with all interested Member States on the terms of reference of the group with a view to establishing it in a timely manner.

165. The Special Committee takes note with appreciation of the increasing cooperation between the United Nations and OAU, and encourages all efforts to enhance it further in accordance with General Assembly resolution 54/94 of 8 December 1999. In this connection, the Special Committee urges that discussion on the exchange of staff between the Secretariats of the United Nations and OAU be concluded at the earliest opportunity.

166. The Special Committee welcomes the efforts of the Secretariat in the area of subregional peacekeeping training and seminars conducted in cooperation with the Southern African Development Community and the Economic Community of West African States, and encourages the Secretariat to extend these efforts to all other African subregional organizations.

F. Other matters

167. The Special Committee highly appreciates the international seminars on peacekeeping operations arranged by Member States and encourages the conduct of such seminars in the future and the circulation to Member States of their outcome. Such seminars provide a valuable opportunity to share experiences and develop a better understanding of the various facets of peacekeeping. The Committee commends all Member States who actively pursue a greater understanding of peacekeeping, and specifically, those countries willing to host conferences distinguished by their wide participation. A list of seminars and conferences organized by Member States on peacekeeping operations and held in 1999 is contained in annex III to the present report.

168. The Special Committee welcomes the practice of being briefed informally on peacekeeping operations by the President of the Security Council in his national capacity.

169. The Special Committee agrees to convene an informal meeting to consider its work during the year 2000.

170. The Special Committee welcomes the timely issuance of the progress report of the Secretary-

General on implementation of the recommendations contained in its 1999 report (A/54/87), and encourages similar timeliness in the issuance of such reports in the future.

171. The Special Committee requests the Secretary-General to submit a report on progress made in the implementation of its recommendations contained in the present report, on which specific reports have not been requested, six weeks prior to its 2001 session.

Annex I

Briefings to the 2000 session of the Special Committee

1. Following the general debate, the Secretariat briefed the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations from 16 to 18 February 2000.

2. Delegates first received a briefing on the question of enhancing civilian police capacity in today's complex United Nations peacekeeping operations. The Secretariat then briefed the Special Committee on progress in lessons-learned projects over the past year and those still under way. A presentation was also made by the Secretariat on its efforts to support appropriate training for military, civilian police and other participants in United Nations peacekeeping operations.

3. The Secretariat's briefing on the topic of planning and mounting United Nations peacekeeping operations addressed coordination of planning between different parts of the United Nations system; ways of enhancing readiness with regard to military and civilian police capabilities; and the need to strengthen logistics readiness.

4. The Committee was also briefed by the Secretariat on the issue of safety and security of United Nations and associated personnel. Representatives of the United Nations Security Coordinator and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided information on security arrangements and programmes, and exchanged views with delegations.

5. The Secretariat briefed the Special Committee on the budgetary implications of logistical preparedness; the financial aspects of peacekeeping, including the use of trust funds, and on procurement. The Secretariat also offered a description of the activities and objectives of the United Nations Mine Action Service.

6. The Committee was also briefed by the President of the Security Council, Ambassador Arnoldo Listre of Argentina, who, in his national capacity, spoke on issues before the Council and on the relationship between the Security Council and troop-contributing countries.

Annex II

Composition of the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations at its 2000 session

Members: Afghanistan, Algeria, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Fiji, Finland, France, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Yugoslavia, Zambia, Zimbabwe.

Observers: Angola, Central African Republic, Iceland, Israel, Latvia, Madagascar, Nicaragua, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, Sovereign Military Order of Malta, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam, European Commission, International Committee of the Red Cross, United Nations Children's Fund, Joint United Nations Programmes on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and Holy See.

Annex III

1999 seminars and conferences*

Title of conference or seminar	*Location*	*Date*	*Sponsors/ organizers*
1. International Peacekeeping Seminar	Canberra, Williamtown, Australia	23 Oct.-3 Nov. 1999	Australia
2. Association of South-East Asian Nations Regional Forum on Laws of Armed Conflict	Williamtown, Australia	8-12 May 1999	Australia
3. International Peace Academy Seminar on Peacemaking and Peacekeeping	Vienna	6-14 July 1999	Austria, Liechtenstein, Sweden
4. International Civilian Peacekeeping and Peacebuilding Training Programme	Stadtschlaining, Austria	21 Feb.-20 Mar. 1999 14 June-10 July 1999 3 Oct.-30 Oct. 1999	Austria
5. United Nations and Regional Security Arrangements	Berlin	24-26 June 1999	Germany
6. United Nations Military Observer and Staff Officer Course	Curragh Camp, Ireland	13 June-2 July 1999	Ireland
7. South Asian Peacekeeping Multi-Platoon Training Seminar	Panchkhal, Nepal	2-10 June 1999	Nepal, USA
8. Fourth UNITAR-IPS-JIIA Conference on Peacekeeping on "The Nexus between Peacekeeping & Peacebuilding"	Singapore	22-23 Nov. 1999	Japan, Singapore, UNITAR
9. Seventh United Nations Peacekeeping Assistance Training Team Seminar	Ankara, Turkey	16-31 Jan. 2000	Turkey
10. Police in Peace Operations (IPA)	New York	22 June 1999	Austria
11. Peace Operations between Peace and War (IPA)	New York	22 June 1999	Austria

* Seminars are listed in alphabetical order of host country; sponsors/organizers are listed in alphabetical order, with host country.